

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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TAGS: MOPS, AO, SF, XXUS

SUBJECT: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS STUDY

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 020621; (B) GABORONE 0162 NOTAL

FOLLOWING IS ARTICLE FROM CFR ISSUE NO. 3 ON CONVENTIONAL
ARMS CONTROL STUDY FOR USE IN PREPARING RESPONSE TO
REFTEL A.

BEGIN QUOTE.

3. PM - CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL STUDY (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE SECRETARY HAS AUTHORIZED PM TO DO A REGION BY REGION
STUDY OF THE PROSPECTS FOR THE CONTROL OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS
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TRANSFERS ALONG WITH PARTICIPATION OF THE REGIONAL BUREAUS

AND ACDA. IN VIEW OF ITS MOUNTING INTEREST IN THE MUSH-ROOMING WORLD ARMS TRADE, CONGRESS HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE STUDY IS IN PROCESS.

TO DATE REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL HAS LARGELY BEEN ON CONTINENTAL OR EVEN GLOBAL TERMS SEEKING TO FORMULATE UNIVERSALLY APPLICABLE GENERAL PRINCIPLES. GIVEN THE WIDELY

DIFFERING CIRCUMSTANCES ENCOUNTERED WITHIN REGIONS AS A WHOLE, THIS APPROACH HAS NOT PROVEN FRUITFUL.

THIS NEW STUDY WILL SEEK TO IDENTIFY SUBREGIONAL GROUPINGS AND EVEN COUNTRY PAIRINGS WHERE MUTUAL INTERESTS AND LIMITATIONS MIGHT BE PRACTICABLE. IT WILL NOT ONLY IDENTIFY AREAS OF TENSION AND RIVALRY BUT ADDRESS AREAS IN WHICH PRESENT STABILITY AND HARMONY CAN BE REINFORCED TO PREVENT POSSIBLE ARMS RACES. IN THIS CONTEXT, EXISTING REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS WILL BE EXAMINED TO SEE IF THEY MIGHT APPROPRIATELY ASSUME AN ARMS CONTROL FUNCTION.

THE EUR WORKING GROUP WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE ROLE OF THE SUPPLIER NATIONS AND ON WHAT INCENTIVES MIGHT BE DEVELOPED TO INCREASE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS TYPES OF COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST HAS FOCUSED ON THE SUGGESTION THAT A CONFERENCE OF NATO ARMS SUPPLIERS BE CONVENED, WE WILL STUDY ALL ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM INCLUDING THE SENSITIVITIES OF RECIPIENT NATIONS TO ANY SUGGESTION OF COLLUSION AMONG SUPPLIERS.

THE STUDY WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP RELATIVELY SIMPLE AND MODEST TYPES OF ARRANGEMENTS MORE APPROPRIATE TO LESSER DEVELOPED AREAS THAN COMPLEX ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS MBFR THAT ARE PARTICULARLY SUITABLE FOR AREAS OF GREAT POWER CONFRONTATION. POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS RELATING ONLY TO NON-ACQUISITION OR CEILINGS ON ONE OR MORE TYPES OF WEAPONS NOT ALREADY IN THE AREA OR RESTRAINT IN UPGRADING EXISTING SYSTEMS WILL BE EXAMINED. SINCE "NON-ARMAMENT" HAS ALWAYS PROVED EASIER THAN DISARMAMENT, AGREEMENTS WHICH BAN OR LIMIT FOR A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME THE ACQUISITION OF NEW

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TYPES OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE MOST FEASIBLE.

VARIOUS INCENTIVES FOR ARMS IMPORTING NATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN LIMITATION ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ADDRESSED, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS MAY PROVE AS ATTRACTIVE TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN SMALL REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AS THE LARGER OBJECTIVES OF SECURITY AND STABILITY.

AN IMPORTANT PURPOSE OF THE STUDY WILL BE TO SEEK TO IDENTIFY AND ENCOURAGE THE TYPES OF REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL THAT WOULD BE MOST CONSISTENT WITH US INTERESTS. EACH REGIONAL SECTION WILL ADDRESS THE RELATIONSHIP OF ARMS SUPPLY TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA AND WILL ATTEMPT TO ASSESS HOW PRESENT US ARMS SUPPLY POLICIES ARE SERVING THE OBJECTIVES THEY ARE

INTENDED TO SERVE.

FINALLY, THE STUDY WILL CONSIDER THE BEST MEANS OF ENCOURAGING THOSE ARMS CONTROL MEASURES WHICH IT MAY IDENTIFY AS BEING OF INTEREST TO THE US. IT ALSO WILL SEEK TO DESCRIBE THE OBSTACLES TO ARMS CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS WHERE THESE EXIST SO THAT US OFFICIALS WILL BE BETTER PREPARED TO DEFEND THE ABSENCE OF ARMS CONTROL MEASURES WHEN THIS IS APPROPRIATE. END QUOTE KISSINGER

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